

**Actor/Co-playwright - Adam Luckey**

Since graduating from Georgetown College, Luckey has worked extensively with many of the theatres in the bluegrass. He lives in Lexington and serves as a Museum Theatre specialist at the Kentucky Historical Society.

**Alternate Actor/Playwright- Greg Hardison**

As the director of the Museum Theatre program, Hardison has helped to produce more than 60 original productions about Kentucky history. He served as a past board member of the International Museum Theatre Alliance, and currently serves on the Educators and Interpreters Committee of the American Association of State and Local History.

The Kentucky Historical Society is grateful for the guidance and scholarship to develop this production provided by these Kentucky historians:

**John Ernst** is a history professor at Morehead State University. His publications include "Forging A Fateful Alliance: Michigan State University and the Vietnam War," "The War That Never Ends: New Perspectives on the Vietnam War," and "The Not So Silent Minority: Louisville's Antiwar Movement, 1966-1975." He and Dr. Yvonne Baldwin are writing a book, "Bless This Stone, This Rock: Kentuckians and the Vietnam War."

**George Herring** is Alumni Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Kentucky. A specialist in recent U.S. history and in American foreign policy, he is the author of numerous books and articles dealing with the Vietnam War, including, most importantly, "America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975," now in its fourth edition.

**Clarence Wyatt** is the Pottinger Professor of History and Special Assistant to the President at Centre College. He graduated from Centre in 1978, and received his master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Kentucky, where he was fortunate to study under George C. Herring. Wyatt is the author of "Paper Soldiers: The American Press and the Vietnam War," as well as numerous articles and essays. He travels frequently to Vietnam and Cambodia, leading Centre students and other groups.

**Suggested Reading:**

Anderson, David L. and John Ernst. "The War That Never Ends: New Perspectives on the Vietnam War." Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2007.

Herring, George C. "America's Longest War: The United States and Vietnam, 1950-1975." 4th ed. New York, 2004.

Wilson, Jim. "The Sons of Bardstown: 25 Years of Vietnam in an American Town." New York, 1994.

Wyatt, Clarence R. "Paper Soldiers: The American Press and the Vietnam War." Illinois, 1995.

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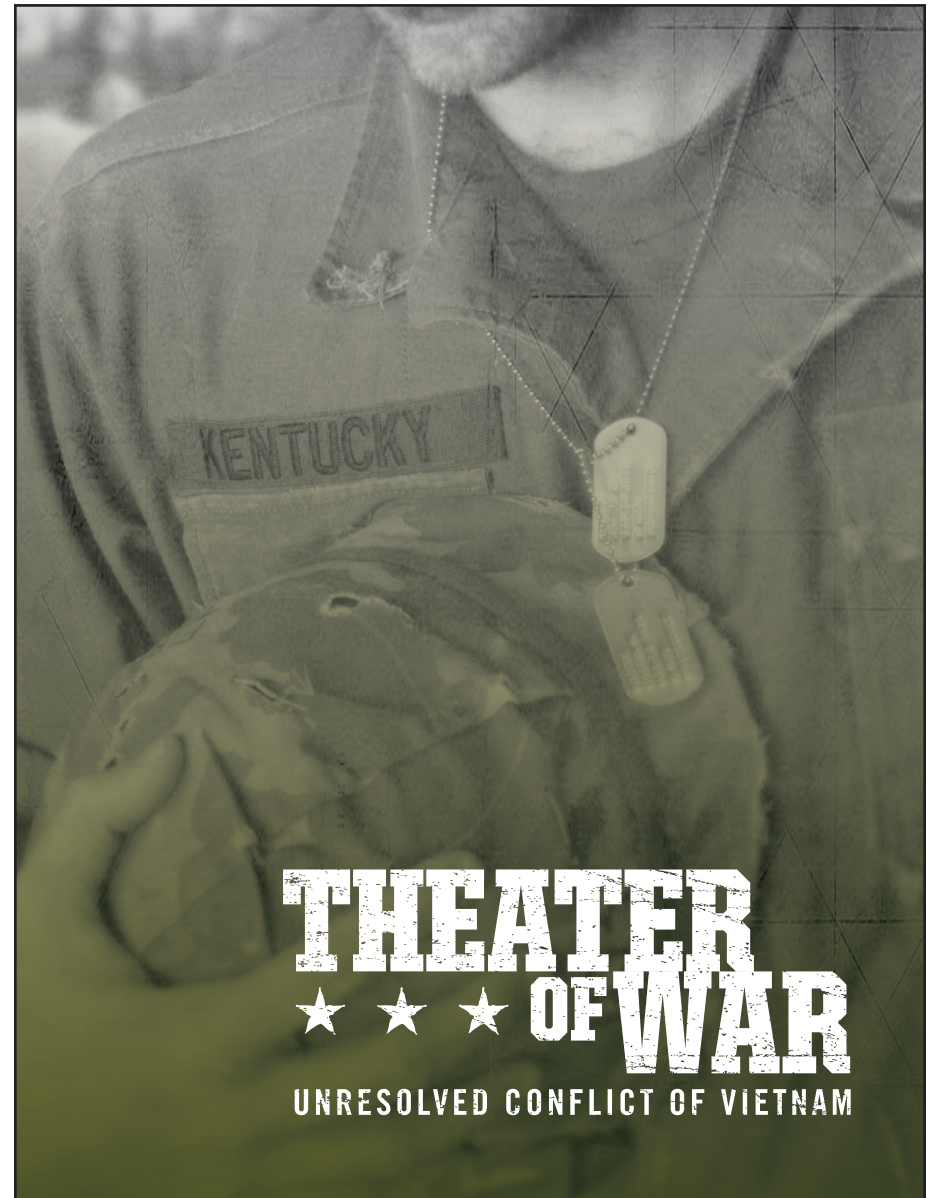
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# MUSEUM THEATRE

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# THEATER OF WAR

UNRESOLVED CONFLICT OF VIETNAM

With the 1950 demise of French colonial rule in Vietnam, United States involvement grew. Under the then-popular domino theory, the United States believed if Vietnam fell to communism, all of Indochina would follow. Involvement in the region reached its apex under President Lyndon B. Johnson. From 1961 to 1975, Kentucky contributed 125,000 troops to Vietnam; 1066 of them died. Bardstown suffered the greatest per capita loss of any other community in the United States.



Like the Civil War, the country was divided by the issues of the war. As the war progressed, peaceful protests began to flare into civil unrest across the United States. One day after the shootings at Kent State University, the University of Kentucky ROTC building was destroyed by fire. National Guardsmen were called to the campus by Governor Louis B. Nunn.

The Vietnam War continues to affect American society, especially in foreign policy and decisions of war. It has been described as a thousand different wars: a different experience for each person. Our soldier will be your guide through the course of the war, while positioning the war within the larger historical context. We dedicate the play to the brave men and women who served in Vietnam and to those who are currently serving their country.

## KHS Museum Theatre

Since 1998, the Museum Theatre program has staged more than 40 original productions often inspired by the rich resources in the Kentucky Historical Society collections. Each play is presented within KHS exhibition spaces, and designed to connect audiences with the sights, sounds and stories of the past. These professional productions provide museum visitors with a personal perspective of historical characters and encourage them to explore the exhibitions to learn more. Audience members often find they relate to the story itself. *What's your story?*

## Glossary

**Agent Orange:** herbicide used to defoliate areas of forest.

**Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN):** land forces of the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces, created by U.S. in 1955.

**Dien Bien Phu:** northwestern Vietnam site where Viet Minh forces overran the French, ending the Indochina War and French colonialism.

**Ho Chi Minh (1890-1969):** founder of the Vietnamese Communist Party and first president of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

**Ia Drang:** one of the first major battles between the U.S. Army and the People's Army of Vietnam, commanded by Kentucky Native Hal Moore.

**Khe Sanh:** location where a series of desperate actions occurred over 77 days, by North Vietnamese; a tactical victory for the Marines.

**Napalm:** generic name denoting flammable liquids used in warfare; often jellied gasoline.

**North Vietnamese Army (People's Army of Vietnam or PAVN):** armed forces of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

**My Lai:** settlement where American soldiers killed unresisting villagers and engaged in destruction of dwellings, livestock and other property.

**Rice paddies:** often flooded fields used for growing rice.

**SEATO (Southeast Asia Treaty Organization):** created on Feb. 19, 1955 to block further communist gains in Southeast Asia.

**SITREP (situation report):** information on the situation in the area of a reporting unit.

**Theater:** a region in which active military operations are in progress.

**Terra Incognita:** the Latin term for "unknown land."

**Viet Cong (VC):** the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam supporting the reunification of the country under a communist rule through guerrilla warfare.

**Viet Minh:** founded by Ho Chi Minh, the League for the Independence of Vietnam fought French colonial rule; reorganized in 1960 as the National Liberation Front, or Viet Cong.

**Yippies:** Youth International Party, a more radically youth-oriented and counter-cultural offshoot of the free speech and anti-war movements of the 1960s.



**Photo credits:** Davis family image, ca. 1960s; Unidentified soldier and children in Vietnam, ca. 1970, donated by Sgt. Pat Simpson; Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial, 1988, donated by the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. All images courtesy of Kentucky Historical Society collections.

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